

# Climate Smart Conservation

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**PRBO Conservation Science Working Definition** *(developed from NWF climate smart principles and others attached):*

**Climate smart conservation** strategies and actions specifically address impacts of climate change in concert with other threats and promote nature-based solutions to:

- Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and enhance carbon sinks;
- Reduce climate change impacts on wildlife and people, and enhance ability to adapt; and,
- Sustain vibrant, diverse ecosystems.

## Climate Smart Principles:

1. **FOCUS ON FUTURE CONDITIONS** not past ('stop trying to prevent ecological change'); use range of plausible future scenarios, including extremes, to address uncertainty in near- & long-term time frames.
2. **DESIGN ACTIONS IN ECOSYSTEM CONTEXT** prioritizing ecosystem function & ecological diversity, and focused on multiple species benefits in broader geographic scope (e.g., watersheds); think & link beyond current protected areas including private lands.
3. **EMPLOY ADAPTIVE & FLEXIBLE APPROACHES** for most timely, effective responses to continual change in climate, ecology and economics; includes adaptive management framework with regular monitoring and reassessments to actively apply learning from what works and what doesn't.
4. **PRIORITIZE ACTIONS** based on best available science and across multiple plausible scenarios including extremes and worst cases, across multiple species to best prepare for ongoing change and to produce greatest benefits to wildlife & people.
5. **COLLABORATE & COMMUNICATE ACROSS SECTORS**- establish/ expand non-traditional alliances to accelerate effective problem solving (e.g., between/among public & private resource managers, scientists, decision-makers); share knowledge openly & actively; regularly and clearly communicate to the public on the science as well as range of solutions- convey hope; engage local communities, e.g., youth, to instill conservation ethic for long term success.
6. **PRACTICE THE TEN% RULE: Test and Experiment Now** – use 10% (or more) of your time every day to develop and try out creative new approaches at every level of natural resource conservation; based on what you already know to address climate change impacts and increasing variability/extremes.

## APPENDIX: CLIMATE SMART ADAPTATION PRINCIPLES

- **National Wildlife Federation Climate Change Adaptation Principles June 2011**  
[www.nwf.org/Global-Warming/Climate-Smart-Conservation/Adaptation-Principles.aspx](http://www.nwf.org/Global-Warming/Climate-Smart-Conservation/Adaptation-Principles.aspx)
- **California Climate Adaptation Strategy DRAFT Update 2012 -Biodiversity Sector -July 23, 2012**  
<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=48381>;  
<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/documents/ContextDocs.aspx?cat=ClimateTaskForce>
- **Ecosystem Adaptation to Climate Change in California: Nine Guiding Principles.**  
Resources Legacy Fund. December 2012.  
<http://tbc3.org/wp-content/uploads/CA-Guiding-Principles-RLF-2012.pdf>